260 East Kuiaha Road Haiku, HI 96708

3972 99 GCT 14 MC :14

October 7, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)

Food and Drug Administration 5630 Fishers La., Rm. 1061 Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket nos. 98N-1230, 96P-0418, and 97P-0197

To Whom It May Concern:

As a physician, I am writing to recommend eliminating the practice of forced molting egg-laying hens.

Recent research, including a study conducted by U.S. government scientists, shows that forced molting increases the frequency and severity of *Salmonella enteritidis* among hens. The stressful conditions weaken their immune systems so badly that they become prone to disease and salmonella infections. The result is sick birds and contaminated eggs.

The most effective and direct way to reduce salmonella in eggs would be to eliminate the practice of forced molting.

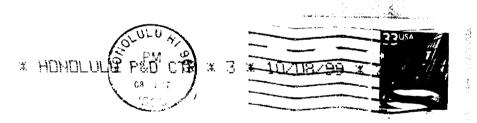
Sincerely,

Richard F. Gartner M.D.

Kiehord & Foreine M.D.

96P-0418

260 El Kuiaha Road Haiku Hi 96708



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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/C 748

See File Number:

97P-0197/ C 7 49 96P-0418/ C 7 48